

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 9, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 10-17, 19, 20, and 22-28 have been rejected. Claims 10, 22-24, 27, and 28 have been amended. Thus, claims 10-17, 19, 20, and 22-28 are pending in this application. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

Personal Interview

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview conducted with the Applicants' representative on April 3, 2008. During the interview, possible amendments to claim 10 to overcome the outstanding §112 rejection and to clarify claim language were discussed. Further, the Examiner provided suggested claim amendments to overcome the rejections and clarify claim language. The Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 10, 22, 27, and 28 have been amended commensurate with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 16, 17, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action states that it cannot be ascertained whether or not Applicants intend to recite that the milk protein salt of claim 16 and the sodium caseinate of claims 17 and 23 are actually present in the final product in the claimed form of milk protein salt (claim 16) and of sodium caseinate (claims 17 and 23). The Applicants respectfully submit that it is well known in the art of preparing elastomeric compositions that trace amounts of additives, such as accelerators and stabilizers, may be present in the final articles. However, these additives are not present in substantial amounts.

In light of the above explanation, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claims 16, 17, and 23.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 10, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,869,591 to McKay et al. (hereinafter "McKay"). The Office Action states that McKay teaches a synthetic elastomeric polyisoprene article having a tensile strength of 3200 psi that is prepared with a curing agent that comprises a dithiocarbamate compound, a thiazole compound, and a guanidine compound. The Office Action further states that the elastomer of the article comprises a stabilizer.

Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McKay for teaching that the curing system comprises a dithiocarbamate compound, a

thiazole compound, and a guanidine compound provided in an amount of from 0.5 to 12 wt%. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As stated in the Response to the Office Action dated October 29, 2007, the subject of McKay is “thermoset interpolymers” (title). More specifically, McKay states that “[t]he subject invention provides a thermoset elastomer comprising a crosslinked pseudorandom or substantially random interpolymer” (abstract). McKay characterizes polymers as falling within two general classes: either “interpolymers” or “homopolymers” (col. 5, lines 29-34). McKay defines the term “interpolymer” to mean “polymers prepared by the polymerization of at least two different types of monomers” (col. 5, lines 57-59). McKay’s disclosure is clearly directed solely to interpolymers (col. 2, lines 55-61).

Independent claims 10 and 27, as amended, recite: “[a] synthetic elastomeric article consisting of a composition comprising a polyisoprene, wherein polyisoprene is the only polymer in the composition...” Similarly, independent claim 28, as amended, recites “[a] glove consisting of a composition comprising a polyisoprene, wherein polyisoprene is the only polymer in the composition...” As McKay is directed to interpolymers, the Applicants respectfully submit that McKay fails to teach each and every feature of claims 10, 27, and 28. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that McKay does not anticipate independent claims 10, 27, and 28, and claims 16, 17, and 26 which depend therefrom.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10, 16, 17, and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over McKay.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 11-14 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over McKay in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,187,857 to Ozawa et al. (hereinafter "Ozawa"). The Office Action states that McKay teaches the article as recited in claim 11 and 22, but admits that it fails to specifically teach that the article is a glove. The Office Action relies on Ozawa to teach that polyisoprene gloves are prepared from a polyisoprene latex composition.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over McKay in view of Ozawa, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,732,578 to Pollack (hereinafter "Pollack"). The Office Action admits that McKay fails to teach that the substituted dithiocarbamate is zinc diethyldithiocarbamate and that the thiazole is zinc 2-mercaptopbenzothiazole. The Office Action relies on Ozawa for teaching zinc 2-mercaptopbenzothiazole as an accelerator and relies on Pollack for teaching zinc diethyldithiocarbamate as an accelerator.

Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over McKay in view of Ozawa. The Office Action states that McKay and Ozawa teach the glove of claim 22.

The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As discussed above with regard to the §102 rejection of independent claim 10, the Applicants respectfully submit that primary reference McKay fails to teach each and every feature of independent claim 10. Independent claim 22, as amended, recites [a] glove consisting of a composition comprising a polyisoprene, wherein polyisoprene is the only polymer in the composition..." The Applicants submit that McKay also fails to

teach each and every feature of claim 22. Further, secondary references Ozawa and Pollack fail to cure McKay's defects.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-14, which depend from claim 10, and claim 22 are not obvious over the proposed combination of McKay and Ozawa, claim 15, which depends from claim 10, is not obvious over the proposed combination of McKay, Ozawa, and Pollack, and claims 23-25, which depend from claim 22, are not obvious over the proposed combination of McKay and Ozawa.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11-15 and 22-25.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 029714-00024.

Respectfully submitted,



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